



Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 005950-742

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	
	)	
James et al.	)	Group Art Unit: 3673
	)	
Application No.: 09/964,930	)	Examiner: Kreck, John J.
	)	
Filed: September 26, 2001	)	Confirmation No.: 2190
	)	
For: Bentonite Nodules	)	
	)	

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

**RECEIVED**

APR 27 2004

**GROUP 3600**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313 -1450

Sir:

In complete response to the Office Action dated December 22, 2003, Applicants submit herewith a petition for one month extension of time extending the period of response from March 22, 2004 until April 22, 2004 and the following Response.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this Response.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this Response.



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Patent  
Attorney Docket No. 005950-742

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

Maurice L. James et al.

Application No.: 09/964,930

Filing Date: September 26, 2001

Title: BENTONITE NODULES

Group Art Unit: 3673

Examiner: Kreck, John J.

Confirmation No.: 2190

**AMENDMENT/REPLY TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply for the above-identified patent application.

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**APR 27 2004**  
**GROUP 3600**

A Petition for Extension of Time is also enclosed.

Terminal Disclaimer(s) and the  \$55.00 (2814)  \$110.00 (1814) fee per Disclaimer due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d) are also enclosed.

Also enclosed is/are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Small entity status is hereby claimed.

Applicant(s) requests continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and enclose the  \$385.00 (2801)  \$770.00 (1801) fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).

Applicant(s) requests that any previously unentered after final amendments not be entered. Continued examination is requested based on the enclosed documents identified above.

Applicant(s) previously submitted \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
on \_\_\_\_\_, for which continued examination is requested.

Applicant(s) requests suspension of action by the Office until at least \_\_\_\_\_, which does not exceed three months from the filing of this RCE, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c). The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.

A Request for Entry and Consideration of Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(a) (1809/2809) is also enclosed.

- No additional claim fee is required.
- An additional claim fee is required, and is calculated as shown below.

<b>AMENDED CLAIMS</b>					
	No. of Claims	Highest No. of Claims Previously Paid For	Extra Claims	Rate	Additional F e
Total Claims	32	MINUS 33 =	0	x \$18.00 (1202) =	\$ 0.00
Independent Claims	4	MINUS 4 =	0	x \$86.00 (1201) =	\$ 0.00
If Amendment adds multiple dependent claims, add \$290.00 (1203)					
Total Claim Amendment Fee					
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Status claimed - subtract 50% of Total Claim Amendment Fee					
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL CLAIM FEE DUE FOR THIS AMENDMENT</b>					
<b>\$ 0.00</b>					

- A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for the fee due.
- Charge \_\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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Date: April 22, 2004

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